



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: rotary.org rotary5470.org northforkrotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 59 Issue 31 – October 8, 2020

LAST MEETING: October 1, 2020 (via Zoom)

President Bliss presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Other Guests: Susan Capps (2nd visit)

Key Guest: No key guest

(Annette now has the key).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We had only a 35% turnout for the Zoom meeting today.
- New Rotary signs have arrived to place at the highway entrances for each town in the tri-city metroplex.
- Highway Cleanup scheduled for Friday, October 30th.
- Susan will be working with the Delta County Health Department, handing out masks and trying to get local businesses excited about following Covid-19 protocols to stay healthy. Opportunities for Rotary volunteers to get involved forthcoming.
- Will begin delivering dictionaries to the third graders around the beginning of November.
- If the Club would like to sponsor an exchange student for year '21-'22, we would need to let them know by November 20, 2020. Contact Greg if you are interested.
- No North Fork Children's Christmas Party this year. Gift bags will be distributed to the children instead along with a frozen pizza for the family. Wrapping will be done by invitation at Memorial Hall in groups of 20 or so, multiple shifts. Contact Pam for more information.
- Senior Connections Fall Service Saturday to be held on November 7th. Meet in Town Park. Cohorts that consider themselves Covid-safe around one another will work as teams.
- Ticket-takers needed for the PHS Homecoming Football game on Oct. 9th. Contact Amy Miller at PHS to volunteer.
- Committee Chairmanship positions available for:
 - Public Relations Committee. Facebook familiarity (or willingness to learn) would be helpful.
 - Fundraising Committee. Ideas for non-contact fundraising needed.Contact Pam or Randy.
- Anyone wishing to take over as Newsletter Editor is welcome to do so. Contact a Board Member.

PROGRAM: Paonia High School in the time of COVID-19

Randal Palmer

President Bliss introduced Mr. Palmer, the Principal of Paonia High School.

Mr. Palmer began by thanking Rotary members for their work taking tickets at various PHS sporting events. Rotary involvement helps free teachers from that duty, which is a “huge deal”.

Amy Miller, athletic director and assistant principal joined the meeting as well.

The “main deal” Mr. Palmer said he wanted to let everyone know is that “we are surviving”. All of the teachers are there and full-time in-person classes are scheduled to begin in October 19. Remote teaching via Zoom is difficult for both teachers and students. Students are excited to return and see their friends.

All the precautions recommended by the CDE, the County and the school district have been adopted to maintain a safe environment:

- The teachers are sanitizing the desks and shared resources between classes using a peroxide mix.
- Enhanced cleaning is performed each night.
- Students are assigned to cohorts with half the students attending classes on alternate days.
- Students within 3 feet of one another are asked to wear masks. Students are also asked to wear masks whenever they are up out of their seats or moving about the classroom or building.
- Many teachers are also wearing masks unless they are stationary.
- Ventilation in the classrooms and common areas has been increased.
- Bells have been staggered so the Jr. High kids are out of the corridors when the High School kids are changing classes.
- Seating is assigned in every classroom to facilitate contact tracing.
- Hand washing is encouraged in those classrooms with sinks (mostly in the Jr. High and in science labs). Every classroom has a hand sanitation station. Students either wash or sanitize their hands on entering or exiting the classroom.
- Social distancing is encouraged in the common areas. Tables in the lunch room have only 3 chairs per table, and the tables are more than 6 feet apart. Students eat with their cohort, but many students leave campus for meals now that this is being allowed. All meals are open to any student wishing to have breakfast or lunch (at no charge).
- Every student, teacher and visitor is screened for Covid symptoms each morning on entering the building. Only essential visitors are allowed in the building.

Teachers are using “Google Classroom” to provide students with assignments as well as instruction. Some teachers record their lessons ahead of time while others record theirs live so on-line students can receive the same instruction as the in-person students.

Some students have elected to do on-line learning only. These students receive instruction via a separate company with its own curriculum and teachers that has been hired to teach these students. There is no interaction with the other students or teachers at the school, except for counseling needs.

So far, there have been no issues or concerns with Covid-19 on campus.

Q and A:

Q: How are your attendance numbers?

A: Attendance is down about 30 students at PHS (about 100 district-wide). Most students have left due to parents losing jobs and needing to move to find work. Covid protocols and accommodations

have not been a factor in students leaving the school.

Q: How much preparation and training did the students need in order to be able to function with remote learning? Does everyone have a computer? If not, are they provided with one?

A: The students were more familiar with the technology than the teachers, so that was not a problem. Everyone has a computer who wants one. Chromebooks are provided for a fee to cover wear and tear. Students can use their own devices if they prefer. Students without suitable Internet connectivity have been provided with hot spots, but this is barely adequate compared to having a real Elevate fiber connection. Additional accommodations are being made for these students, including allowing them to attend in person every day.

Q: How big a challenge is it for the teachers to teach remotely?

A: It is a huge challenge. The teaches are not geared to teach in this mode. Teaching in-class students is different from teaching remotely, and different pacing is required. Remote learning just does not work as well, so everyone is eager to get back into the classroom full-time.

Q: How are the Seniors doing?

A: Returning to class is helping them. Homecoming is happening, along with a Homecoming football game. There will be no parade, dance or bonfire, but the Student Council is planning alternate events that can be Covid-safe while accommodating the two cohorts. Homecoming royalty is still taking place.

Q: How will social distancing be practiced in the stands at the football game.

A: Currently waiting on guidance from the County on what guidelines must be followed. The football field, as part of Town Park and not in a stadium on school property, is very difficult to monitor and control. Measures are being taken to prevent students from the two schools from mixing with one another, and everyone participating on the field must pass a Covid-19 screening protocol. Masks must be worn on the sidelines and by referees. There will only be three home games this year.

Q: Does the school need any PPE supplies, such as masks?

A: The students have been doing a good job of bringing their own, so the supplies are in good shape.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
10/8/20	Cynthia Houseweart	Princess Beef	Judy Beggs
10/15/20	Luke Reschke	Water Commissioner	Jackie Parks
10/22/20		Polio Update Video	Bill Bishop
10/29/20		Fifth Thursday	
11/5/20	Mary Marshall	Solar Forward Project	Sarah Bishop
11/12/20			Norm Lewark

